

C 96 — 29

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Robin Engelman, director

Programme

Third Construction (1941)

John Cage

Tan-Lake Chuan, Antti Rislakki, Tsai-Che Ming, David Lüginbuhl

Girlfriends Medley (1991)
(Margie, Jean and Dinah)

Robinson, Brooks, Ask
arranged by Bob Becker

David Lüginbuhl, solo xylophone
Antti Rislakki, Nathan Archer, Tan-Lake Chuan, Jurij Konje

Clos d'Audignac (1984)

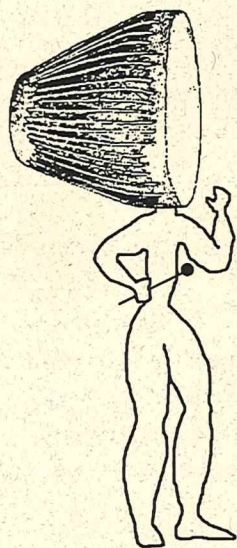
Bruce Mather

Nathan Archer, solo marimba
Jerry Pergolesi, marimba; Otto Hauser, vibraphone
David Lüginbühl, glockenspiel, chimes and percussion

Säkkijärven Polkka
(The Polka of the Sack Lake)

trad. arr. Risto Pulkkinen

Nathan Archer, Antti Rislakki, Tan-Lake Chuan,
Tsai-Che Ming, David Simpson, Jurij Konje-darabuka



Tuesday, March 12, 1996

8:00 pm

Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
Admission Free, Information 978-3744

Programme Notes

Third Construction

John Cage (1912 - 1992)

Third Construction is the pinnacle of Cage's innovative percussion ensemble writing. It is his final work in this medium, and perhaps his most complex and mature. Many Mexican, Central American and Native Indian instruments are called for in this piece including Quijadas, cricket callers, conch shell and rattles. Other unusual instruments such as graduated tin cans play a prominent role in the work. Both the rhythmic shape and the overall structure of the piece are related to Cage's "square root theory", in which components of various relationships within a piece reflect the numeric proportions of the square root. In Third Construction there are twenty-four bars. In addition, there is a twenty-four bar introduction. This proportional writing is extended to Cage's elaborate use of cross-rhythmic relationships among the individual parts. This builds toward the end of the sections where up to four sub-divisional flows of 3, 5, 7, and 9 are played simultaneously.

Clos d'Audignac

Bruce Mather (b. 1939)

Written between October, 1983 and July, 1984, Clos d'Audignac was commissioned by Bob Becker with the aid of a grant from the Canada Council. Clos d'Audignac, one of the finest wines of the commune of Volnay in Burgundy, is a monopoly of the "Domaine de la Pousse d'Or". The solo marimba is accompanied by three other players on marimba, vibraphone, glockenspiel and cowbells. The work is dedicated to Bob Becker and NEXUS.
-B.M.

Girlfriends Medley

arr. Bob Becker (b. 1947)

During the "roaring" 1920's and exciting kind of ragtime music became the rage in North America. Popularly known as "novelty ragtime", this music was associated with the various dance styles in vogue at the time. Highly technical, often programmatic and certainly speedier than previous ragtime music, it was a perfect vehicle for the xylophone. Propelled by the newly invented phonograph, the xylophone as a solo instrument enjoyed a true "golden age" during the 1920's and 30's. Xylophone soloists appeared with piano accompaniment, in dance orchestras and concert bands, and were heard regularly on radio broadcast and in animated cartoons and motion pictures. "Margie", "Jean" and "Dinah" were hit tunes during the 1920's.
-B.B.

Säkkijärven Polkka (The Polka of the Sack Lake)

trad. arr. Risto Pulkkinen

Säkkijävi is in the part of Karelia which used to be inside the Finnish borders, but was given to Russia after World War II. Polka is one of Finland's old traditional dances and this particular one, originally an accordion piece, shows the typical finnish melancholia--but still has a little bit of the famous finnish guts. Even some russian characteristics can be found. The arranger Risto Pulkkinen is the principal percussionist of Turka Philharmonia and teaches percussion in the Conservatory of Turku.